

Price of natural gas

812. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the important recommendations made by the Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy;

(b) how conceptually his Ministry is planning to independently regulate the price of domestic natural gas through 'cost-plus-basis'; and

(c) the exact meaning of fixing price of natural gas through 'net-back-basis'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Planning Commission had constituted an Expert Committee to formulate an Integrated Energy Policy, which submitted its report in August 2006. The key recommendations of the Committee relate to the following aspects of Energy:—

- (i) Ensuring adequate supply of Coal with consistent quality;
- (ii) Addressing concern of states rich in coal and hydro resource;
- (iii) Ensuring availability of gas for power generation;
- (iv) Power sector reforms;
- (v) Reduction in cost of power;
- (vi) Rationalisation of fuel prices;
- (vii) Energy efficiency and demand side management;
- (viii) Augmenting of resources for increased energy security;
- (ix) Using natural gas abroad to set up captive fertilizer plants, gas liquefaction facilities, etc.;
- (x) Role of Nuclear and Hydro power;
- (xi) Role of renewables;
- (xii) Ensuring energy security;
- (xiii) Boosting energy related R&D;
- (xiv) Household energy security—electricity and clean fuels for all;
- (xv) An enabling environment for competitive efficiency;
- (xvi) Climate change concerns.

(b) The Government has decided that future production of gas from NELP fields, as also additional gas to be developed in future, by ONGC and OIL, as well as Joint Venture/Private Companies, would be sold at market related prices. NELP provisions do not envisage regulating the price of domestic natural gas through cost plus basis.

(c) The concept of fixing of price of natural gas through 'net-back basis' would imply that the price of natural gas is derived from a given or assumed benchmark after deducting all relevant costs, etc.

Revised norms for capital equity

813. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the norms for capital equity for airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said move was aimed so that only serious players enter the fast expanding aviation sector; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to enforce more strict safety measures for airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Safety measures prescribed in the form of rules, regulations and advisory circulars are laid down for compliance and reviewed from time to time as and when required. Regular compliance is monitored by the airlines operator during internal safety audits and by the DGCA during safety audits, surveillance inspections and spot checks.

Duty and tax on petrol and diesel

814. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are variations from country to country